

Muddy Creek Lutheran Church

11 South Muddy Creek Rd, Denver, PA 17517

Fifth Sunday In Lent – March 22, 2026

10:15am Service

Online Bulletin



TODAY'S READINGS

EZEKIEL 37:1-14

PSALM 130

ROMANS 8:6-11

JOHN 11:1-45

www.mclchurch.org 717-336-2770 office@mclchurch.org

Follow us on Facebook and YouTube

The second service is livestreamed and posted on our website and YouTube channel.

Children's activity boxes are in the rear of the sanctuary

Welcome to Muddy Creek Lutheran Church

*Please stand as you are able; Congregational responses are **bold**

GATHERING

Welcome

Announcements

Passing the Peace

P: The Peace of the Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

PRELUDE “Ah, Holy Jesus” arr. J. Linker

*Confession and Forgiveness

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid; cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sins, in the presence of God and of one another. Most merciful God,

C: **We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

P: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of Jesus Christ, ✠ your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C: **Amen.**

*GATHERING HYMN: “Give to Our God Immortal Praise!” #848

1 Give to our God immortal praise;
mercy and truth are all His ways;
wonders of grace to God belong,
repeat His mercies in your song.

2 He sent His Son with pow'r to save
from guilt, and darkness, and the grave;
wonders of grace to God belong,
repeat His mercies in your song.

3 Give to the Lord of lords renown,
the King of kings with glory crown;
His mercies ever shall endure,
when lords and kings are known no more.

***Greeting**

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

***KYRIE** PG. 203

Have mercy on us, Lord, and hear our solemn prayer.
We come to hear your living word, it saves us from despair.

Have mercy on us, Christ, and wash away our sin.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may begin.

Have mercy on us, Lord, make sin and shame depart.
Renew us in your saving pow’r; create in us new hearts!

***CANTICLE OF PRAISE** PG. 204

Glory be to God in heaven; peace, goodwill to all the earth.
Mighty God of all creation, Father of surpassing worth;
we exalt you, we adore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
Saints and angels bow before you; here on earth our songs we raise.

Glory be to Christ forever, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
Son of God and gracious Savior, you have come from heav’n above;
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God’s right hand.
Hear our prayer; restore, forgive us; in your promise firm we stand.

Holy One we now acclaim you; Lord alone, to you we call;
Holy One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:
Jesus Christ, with God the Spirit, in the Father’s splendor bright.
For the peace that we inherit, glory be to God on high.

***Prayer of the Day**

P: Let us pray.

Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us
the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ and serve you in
righteousness all our days, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns
with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Church Choir: “Oh, What a Man Was He”Beau/Althouse

Children’s Message

THE WORD

First Reading: Ezekiel 37:1-14

¹ The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ² He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. ³ He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know." ⁴ Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. ⁵ Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶ I will lay sinews on you and will cause flesh to come upon you and cover you with skin and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the Lord."⁷ So I prophesied as I had been commanded, and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸ I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them, but there was no breath in them. ⁹ Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live."¹⁰ I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. ¹¹ Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, and say to 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.'" ¹² Therefore prophecy them: Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people, and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³ And you shall know that I am the Lord when I open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴ I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord."

L: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God**

Psalm 130 (sung responsively)

¹ Out | of the depths

I cry to | you, O LORD;

² **O LORD, | hear my voice!**

Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my | supplication.

³ If you were to keep watch | over sins,

O LORD, | who could stand?

⁴ **Yet with you | is forgiveness,**

in order that you | may be feared.

⁵ I wait for you, O LORD; | my soul waits;

in your word | is my hope.

⁶ **My soul waits for the Lord more than those who keep watch | for the morning,
more than those who keep watch | for the morning.**

⁷ O Israel, wait for the LORD, for with the LORD there is | steadfast love;

with the LORD there is plen- | teous redemption.

⁸ **For the LORD shall | redeem Israel**

from | all their sins.

Second Reading: Romans 8:6-11

⁶ To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.

⁷ For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed, it cannot, ⁸ and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.⁹ But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹ If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (sung)**

**We are turning, Lord, to hear you; you are merciful and kind –
slow to anger, rich in blessing, and with love to us inclined.**

***Gospel Reading: John 11:1-45**

P: The Holy Gospel according to John.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹ Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha.

² Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. ³ So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." ⁴ But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather, it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." ⁵ Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, ⁶ after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. ⁷ Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." ⁸ The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" ⁹ Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble because they see the light of this world. ¹⁰ But those who walk at night stumble because the light is not in them." ¹¹ After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." ¹² The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right."

¹³ Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. ¹⁴ Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. ¹⁵ For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." ¹⁶ Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him." ¹⁷ When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸ Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, ¹⁹ and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. ²⁰ When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. ²¹ Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." ²³ Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴ Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." ²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷ She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

²⁸ When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you."²⁹ And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him.³⁰ Now Jesus had not yet come to the village but was still at the place where Martha had met him.³¹ The Jews who were with her in the house consoling her saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there.³² When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."³³ When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved.³⁴ He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see."³⁵ Jesus began to weep.³⁶ So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!"³⁷ But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"³⁸ Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it.³⁹ Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days."⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?"⁴¹ So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me.⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me."⁴³ When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!"⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."⁴⁵ Many of the Jews, therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did believed in him.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

***HYMN OF THE DAY:** "Jesus, the Very Thought of You"#754

1 Jesus, the very thought of you
fills us with sweet delight;
but sweeter far your face to view
and rest within your light.

2 Nor voice can sing, nor heart can frame,
nor can the mind recall
a sweeter sound than your blest name,
O Savior of us all!

3 O Hope of ev'ry contrite soul,
O Joy of all the meek,
how kind you are to those who fall!
How good to those who seek!

4 O Jesus, be our joy today;
help us to prize your love;
grant us at last to heart you say:
""Come, share my home above.""

***The Apostles' Creed**

P: Together, let us confess our faith through the words of the Apostle's Creed,

C: **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

***Thanksgiving for Offering**

We give thee but thine own, whate'er the gift may be;

All that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.



To make an Offering, you can scan this QR code or place your gift in an offering box. Thank you for supporting the ministries of Muddy Creek!

***HYMN OF REFLECTION**

Lord, listen to your children praying,

Lord, send your Spirit in this place.

**Lord, listen to your children praying,
send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.**

***Prayers of Intercession**

P: Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs. *A brief silence is held for reflection.*

We pray for the church. Grant life and peace to all who gather in your name. Breathe into us so that we may share your message of forgiveness, hope, and love.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for creation. Renew landscapes that have dried up, prosper the work of those who restore homes and habitats after natural disasters, and sustain places where biodiversity thrives.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the nations. Unbind leaders trapped by fear to act boldly for justice, free all who live in places of war and violence, and guide refugees and asylum seekers to safety.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all people in need. Take away the stone of poverty that weighs down so many.

Console any who weep, and heal all who are sick. *(Together aloud, we pray...)* **God, provide comfort and reassurance to Clarence Rutt, Sev Yerger, the family of David Sloat, families impacted by war, and those we lift silently or aloud to you now.**

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the Lower Susquehanna Synod. Ready the hearts and spirits of all preparing to be baptized. Deepen our wonder at the mystery of your resurrection and life.
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We offer our thanksgiving for all people who have died in faith. Give us faith to trust in your power to redeem and save, and bring us up from our graves to life in you.
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation. **Amen.**

***The Lord's Prayer**

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

THE SENDING

***Blessing**

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace

C: **Amen** (sung)

***SENDING HYMN: "Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed".....#337**

1 Alas! and did my Savior bleed,
and did my Sovereign die!
Would he devote that sacred head
for sinners such as I?

2 Was it for sins that I had done,
he groaned upon the tree?
Amazing pity, Grace unknown,
And love beyond degree!

3 Well might the sun in darkness hide,
and shut its glories in,
when God, the mighty maker,
Died for his own creature's sin.

4 Thus might I hide my blushing face
while his dear cross appears;
dissolve my heart in thankfulness,
and melt my eyes to tears.

5 But tears of grief cannot repay
the debt of love I owe.
Here, Lord, I give myself away;
'tis all that I can do.

***Dismissal**

P: Go in peace. Serve God and one another in faith.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE: "Postlude in E Minor" Ch. H. Rinck

Today's Service

Supply Pastor Rev. Newell Embley III
Music Director Greg Gehman

Acolyte Barb Yerger
Cantor David Sensenig
Counters Hollie Kemper, Jane Wenger
Lector Brad Rauch

Today's altar flowers were donated by Brad and Doris Rauch in memory of loved ones.

Today's bulletins were donated by Richard S. Burkholder.

Nedra Bearinger donated the refreshments for the Fellowship Hour.

March 29th Worship Assistants

Acolyte Russel Beck
Cantor Gail Bare
Counters Linda and Tim Fritz
Lector Holly Kemper

Announcements and Upcoming Events

Welcome! If you're visiting with us today, we're glad you're here. At your convenience, you are welcome to fill out the yellow card in your pew and share a little about yourself or let us know how we can be praying for you. We're happy you chose to spend today with us!

Prayers: In addition to those on our Prayer Ministry list, we lift up Clarence Rutt, Sev Yerger, the family of David Sloat, and families impacted by war.

Redner's Save-A-Tape Program

Support the Muddy Creek Good Samaritan Fund with your Redner's receipts! Simply place your complete register receipts ("tapes") in the Redner's containers at all church entrances.

Bring the entire receipt — do not cut it – so that we can calculate our total. Thanks to recent submissions, we will receive **\$137.25**. Thank you for your continued support!

Easter Service Lawn Signs

Help spread the word about Muddy Creek's Easter services! The Evangelism Committee will be handing out yard signs which list the times of Easter services at Muddy Creek. All are invited to take one to put up on your lawn. The signs are in the Annex.

Questions, contact Brenda Berger at 717-336-6886, bergerb@dejazzd.com

Easter Flowers

Orders due today!

This year, we will again order Easter lilies, daffodils, and tulips for the congregation and loved ones. They will be delivered to the church on April 5th. Order forms are available on the table below the mailboxes.

College/Military Goodie Boxes

Dontate no later than April 12

We are collecting snack donations for our College and Military Goodie Boxes! Donations may be placed in the designated collection boxes located at all church entrances.

Church & Grove Outdoor Clean-Up

Saturday, March 28 | 8am – 12pm

Please mark your calendars and plan to join us for a morning of outdoor clean-up around the church and in the grove. **Items Needed:** Wheelbarrows, Rakes, Shovels, Pruners, Gloves, and any other tools you've found helpful at past clean-ups. Trailers are also needed to haul debris. If you are able to provide a trailer on March 28, please contact Judy Nichol at 717-484-1447. Thank you for using your gifts to serve the Lord as we care for His church grounds together.

Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, March 29 | 11:30am

Calling all kids and adults alike! Come join our Community Easter Egg Hunt in the Grove. Don't miss a special visit from the Easter Bunny! Donations of plastic eggs and wrapped candy are appreciated. **For this event to continue as scheduled, volunteers are needed.** Please drop off donations no later than Sunday, March 22nd, on the table under the mailboxes.

Easter Breakfast

Sunday, April 5 | 8:30am

Come join us in fellowship! A donation list with needed supplies is available on the table under the mailboxes. If you're planning to attend, can lend a hand with serving, or assist in cleanup, please add your name to the blue RSVP sheet. Thank you for helping make this a joyful and meaningful time for everyone!

Muddy Creek Cemetery Board

Special Offering Request

Today - Sunday, March 22

Muddy Creek Cemetery is a historic cemetery that has been in operation since the American Revolution. It serves as the final resting place for more than 200 veterans who have served in the United States military, dating back to the Revolutionary War. The Cemetery Board is requesting a special offering to help offset a portion of our general maintenance and landscaping expenses. Any support you can provide would be greatly appreciated and will be used to help preserve and maintain the cemetery for future generations.

Board Opening

A volunteer is needed to fill a one-year term on the Cemetery Board.

If you are interested in serving, please contact Council President Audrey Noll.

Partner Ministry Events

Swamp Lutheran Church Widowers Group Luncheon

Thursday, April 9th | 12pm

Udder Choice Restaurant, Ephrata, PA

Join us to hear our guest speaker from Middle Creek Wildlife Management discuss habitat, migration, and the history of MCWM.

RSVP to the church office at (717) 336-2849 or secretary@swamplutheran.org

“Brenda and Friends” Bus Trips

- April 16-18 (Thurs-Sat) “The International Tattoo”, Norfolk, VA
Includes: Canal Cruise, Military Aviation Museum, Oceanfront Lodging -VA Beach, Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel, & Marvel Carriage Museum
- April 30th (Thursday) “Some Enchanted Evening”, Hunterdon Hills Playhouse
For more information, contact Brenda Berger (717) 336-6886 or berger@dejazzd.com

Administrative Items

March 15th	Attendance		Offerings	
	8am	25	Weekly	\$1,948
	10:15am	40	Month-to-Date	\$7,024
	Online	25		

General Fund plus Mission Support	
Received through February	\$24,980
Expenses through February	\$32,521